

1147 gave Roger the advantage of the aggressor, and helped to postpone the blow which both Empires meditated against him.

The diplomatic struggle which now followed between Roger and the King of the Romans, is related elsewhere. But here one may show how the duel of the two survived the Crusade in which their mutual hostility had been crossed by the events of the Holy War, and how the demand for a new Crusade affected their relations in the future,

The thought of Sicily was a constant irritation to Conrad; could he only have freed himself from Wendish revolts in the east of Germany, Welf risings in the south, and private war everywhere he would certainly have undertaken the descent upon Italy, claimed the Imperial Crown at Rome, and marched against Roger. His court at Frankfort was full of Norman exiles such as Robert of Capua, Richard and Alexander, brothers of Duke Rainulf. A number of active correspondents were indefatigable in attempts to blow up the flames of a great war between Sicily and the Empire. Of these the most unappeasable was Wibald of Corvei; other epistles came from those whom he had left behind at Monte Cassino. Thus John the Notary wrote from Monte Cassino to Robert of Capua

with the
news that Welf of Bavaria, Roger, the
Frangipani,
even the Pope were in league against
the Empire;
the Cardinals in particular had
boasted to Cenci-
sius Frangipani that they had driven
out of Italy
not only Robert's party, but the
Greeks and